4: Hockings E-5 (1962-1977) 1980
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spiritual guide, does not give his nephews or nieces any of this information either. Girls may exceptionally be able to get advice from their mothers or grandmothers.

Girls do have sexual discussions however, mainly with other girls of the same age, and especially with adolescent girls who have recently married or who are about to be married. A group of adolescent friends is thus where a young bride will find out about the sexual experiences of others. In general young girls are not included in such discussions before they reach puberty, as it is felt they would not understand.

There is a situation in which the instruction of girls used to be more formalized, and at the same time allowed for an older, experienced woman to teach them. Until the early part of this century unmarried adolescent girls used to sleep together in one house of their village. Since the young boys did the same thing in another house, this allowed married adults more freedom to engage in sexual activity at home. Naturally the girls sometimes had sexual discussions and the woman, often a widow, in whose house they were staying would usually join in with some practical advice.

The custom of boys sleeping together in one house has virtually ceased, but it did offer them too an opportunity for sexual discussions. Boys show an interest in sex at an earlier age than girls do, and from the age of 12 they take part in discussions with youths much older than themselves, including some who are married. Thus some boys may joke with a newly-wed friend about what they have heard him doing at night, and he in turn may choose to give them a detailed description.

Boys who are not attending school have a great deal of time to spend on sexual discussions and experimentation. Usually too there are some idle old men in the village who kill time by talking about sex with the boys or discuss the subject amongst themselves. Young husbands and wives may also have such discussions, just as unmarried lovers do. Groups of women may be quite frank about their experiences in front of each other, too. Newly married brides can hope to learn something from their perhaps more experienced husbands, and adolescent boys sometimes manage to learn from the wife of an elder brother.

3.3. Conversation inevitably leads to observation, and in a peasant society opportunities abound for watching sexual activity. Most visible, of course, are the dogs and cattle in the village, whose be-